

## Women in the Economy Commission Meeting - Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2015

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Senate Room 215

**Commission:** Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Rep. Becky Edwards, Sen. Luz Escamilla, Sen. Deidre Henderson, Carrie Mayne, Trina Eyring, Ann Marie Thompson, Anne Burkholder, Jennifer Robinson

**Excused:** Judy Barnett

**Staff Support:** Gail Tilson with additional support from Jen Jankowski

**Attendees:** Danie Natter, Nic Dunn

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
Welcome	Welcome (Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck)  The minutes from our last meeting were approved.	A motion was made to approve the minutes from our June 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting. Motion carried.
Presentation on high school girls and how we can get them excited and help them want to further their education	Danie Natter, Counselor at Kearns High School, addressed the Commission. She has between 380 - 400 students at any given time that she is in charge of. This is a huge barrier in meeting with each student individually to find out what their plans and goals are.  Programs which have been tried and are in place at Kearns High are Step Up and College Application Week. The graduation rate for 2014 was 74%. Kearns has piloted the College Application Week and the first year they got 82% of seniors to apply for college. Because of the success in the first year, Kearns was asked to be the model school. For the 2014-15 school year, there were 37 schools throughout the state who participated. A few things were tweaked and Kearns High had 90% of their students	

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Sub-Committee Updates	<p>apply for college. The Granite Education Foundation, through the Granite School District, paid the application fees. A reality check came, however, when only 30% of the students actually enrolled in college.</p> <p>There was \$54,000,000.00 that went unclaimed in Pell Grant money last year. The problem is parents not knowing how to complete the application and paperwork.</p> <p>More girls are enrolling but not finishing. Somewhere there is a gap where those kids are lost. We need to make sure that they understand options such as certification programs that do not require degrees, where students can be apprentices, etc.</p> <p>The question was posed to Danie about what is needed to help not only students, but parents as well. The answer Danie gave was we need more counselors and they should be at every event talking to parents.</p> <p>The cost of education can also be a determining factor about why students do not complete it.</p> <p>Utah Futures can help students find what they are good at.</p>	<p>A solution to this could be having those tax professionals in Wal-Mart and similar places talk to those parents whose children qualify for a Pell Grant. The Commission should look at talking to companies who could help by volunteering to do this.</p> <p>Money is needed to hire more counselors. Whatever the Commission can do, be it legislation, partnering with agencies or whatever, this should be a goal.</p> <p>Trina Eyring offered to be a liaison between the Commission and Utah Futures.</p>
	<p><b>Research Sub-Committee</b> (Commissioner Robinson): Our two main goals right now are 1) Getting the focus groups funded. \$32,000.00 is needed and Rep. Chavez-Houck gave the charge to all Commission members to be looking for funders who could assist us. Carrie is looking at the provisions of the bill to see which external funding ways are legal. 2) Statewide survey.</p>	<p>Carrie will enquire with DWS staff about rules and process around the donation question.</p>

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Schedule Next Meeting	<p>The Research Sub-Committee will also look into unintentional acts of teachers or counselors that could affect students (in relation to Danie Natter’s presentation).</p> <p><b>Communications Sub-Committee</b> (Commissioner Wallace): The 3 areas of focus for the Communications Sub-Committee are: 1) Messaging and talking points for media; 2) Responses to any reports that come out through the media; 3) Public community education.</p> <p>Commissioner Wallace would also like to have a co-chair for this sub-committee.</p> <p><b>Public Policy Sub-Committee</b> (Co-Chair Chavez-Houck): We will be acting on the information that will be provided by the focus groups. We also will be discussing the need for counselors in our schools, as brought up by Danie Natter today. There’s also USHE and the engineers. To the Communications Sub-Committee, we would bring up the challenge of finding ways to push out this information to the broader public -- public outreach/public education.</p> <p>Two questions to be considered: 1) How does the Commission provide policy recommendations, being an executive branch commission, and 2) (for Commissioner Wallace) – How does the Chamber determine which policies they support?</p> <p>Gail will send out a Doodle Poll.</p>	

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